

NAKAPALA BY THE SEA.

XXII.—SALT.

(By Anne Marie Prescott.)

'Salt develops or brings out flavor. This is a self-evident proposition—is it not? Then, we have good starting-ground for further reasoning. We all know that just common salt is good for man and beast—good mentally, morally, spiritually and physically—salt. "But if the salt have lost his savor"—or there is too much at any given time or place, or work, the old rule will hold good; too much, even of salt, is good for nothing—no thing. It will repel, pall, as quickly as too much honey.

The ground had been bought and paid for by an eastern city government for the erection of a stately building—the Boys' High School. Not being quite ready to build on that south-end lot, a fine locality, lying east and west between an avenue and Tremont street—Moody happened along and wanted a place for a few months where to pitch his tabernacle, that might hold a few thousand people at a time. Very good. Here was "corn in Egypt" for him, and the bargain was struck, the first note of his work begun and the first nail soon driven home. When those many doors were all duly lettered with a, b, c, and the rest, not quite so far, however, as 26, we were living on that avenue, exactly opposite, and we said: We have never in one sense, certainly, gone for Moody; but now he had come after us it was plain to be seen, and we would, one day, listen to his cry. But, days and weeks and even months went by and we went by that tabernacle to our quiet little parish church. We went by that great shammy structure; we passed with an observant, watchful and thoughtful eye day after day, Sunday after Sunday, that mass of humanity, some in sober garb, cleanly and proper; some almost in rags and tags and in faded velvet gowns, and not a few in motley surging on. The street gamin pushed in with something the same "chie" or "cheek" he would gladly crawl under the circus canvas if he might; he wanted to hear the refrains to whistle, after, in his alley; he could dispense with the opening prayers. The tired man of the world, the woman of the demi monde, the aged, the feeble, the handsome youth, the giggling girl leading a younger sister; all professions, all trades and no trades, all workers, idlers of all ages—and even newspaper men—passed in and out day and night, Sunday and week day, those lettered doors. We had not, as yet, kept our word; that piece of pasteboard was still lying there unnoticed that would at once open a door for our admittance; but the grand, old, sublime liturgy of our forefathers, the prayers and hymns they had prayed and sung responded to our every need and every fibre of our soul's hunger met its full sustenance in that liturgy of morning and evening and in the still greater—the "Divine Liturgy"—the Eucharist.

Our sturdy will, our stubborn-stolid indifference to those religious services that were being conducted hour after hour not a half stone's throw from our very front door-knocker, reminded us of a little story of Hawthorne's while he was consul at Liverpool under his life-long friend's administration—Pierce. It was at this time that he wrote that most perfect English classic, "Our Old Home." He took a certain road each morning in his walk to the consulate and he realized by some one of those intuitions, no mind can fathom, that a very insolent-faced beggar, always to be found at the same spot, was determined to catch his eye for an alms, and Hawthorne determined that he should not. For a solid four years, his term of office, he took pains to pass that figure, and it was Greek met Greek, strange to say. The beggar held his ground to the end, and never failed to fix his eye on the author as soon as he came in sight; but he failed

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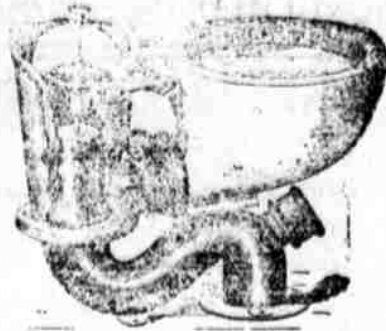
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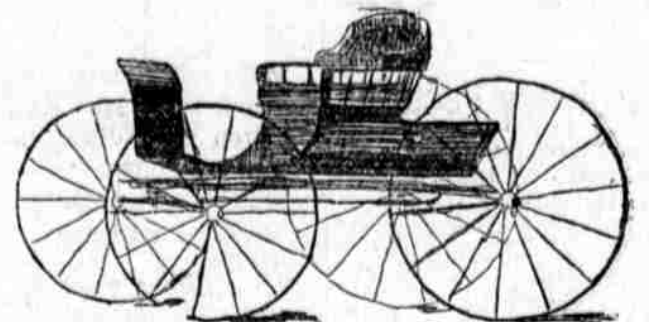
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